

## Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS HEW

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TPHY OSCI EG

SUBJ: US-EGYPTIAN JOINT WORKING GROUP ON MEDICAL

COOPERATION: SUMMARY REPORT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AGREED SUMMARY REPORT OF JWG ON MEDICAL COOPERATION. THIS REPORT COVERS SIX SEPARATE REPORTS PREPARED BY SUBCOMMITTEES FORMED DURING MEETING HELD OCTOBER 28 THROUGH NOVEMBER 1.

1. BEGIN TEXT: THE FIRST MEETING OF THE JOINT US-EGYPTIAN MEDICAL COOPERATION WORKING GROUP WAS CONCLUDED NOVEMBER 1, 1974 IN CAIRO. THE MEETING WAS HELD PURSUANT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF RELATIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE UNITED STATES, WHICH WERE SIGNED ON JUNE 14, 1974, BY EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT MUHAMMED ANWAR EL-SADAT AND THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, MR. RICHARD M. NIXON.

2. THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED JOINTLY BY THE HONORABLE FOUAD MOHIE EL-DIN, MINISTER OF HEALTH OF EGYPT, AND DR. CHARLES C. EDWARDS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH OF THE US DEPARTMENT

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OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE. PARTICIPATING FOR EGYPT

WERE OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH, HIGHER EDUCATION  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS, PLANNING AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND THE

MEDICAL CORPS OF THE ARMED FORCES. PARTICIPANTS  
FOR THE UNITED STATES INCLUDED THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE  
US NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT IN CAIRO, A REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SEVERAL  
OFFICIALS OF THE US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
WELFARE. AMBASSADOR HERMANN FR. EILTS, US AMBASSADOR TO  
EGYPT, AND ENGINEER EFFAT, COORDINATOR OF EGYPTIAN-AMERICAN  
ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ALSO ATTENDED THE FIRST MEETING.

3. BOTH DELEGATIONS RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATIVE  
ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKING PLACE UNDER EXISTING  
MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION PROGRAMS, AS A VALUABLE  
BASE UPON WHICH TO BUILD A BROADER AND STRONGER EFFORT.  
THE NEEDS OF EGYPT IN A NUMBER OF HEALTH AREAS WERE OUTLINED  
AND PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE US DELEGATION. IT  
WAS NOTED THAT CLOSE COLLABORATION DIRECTED TOWARDS THEIR  
SOLUTION WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT BENEFITING NOT  
ONLY EGYPT AND THE UNITED STATES, BUT THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE  
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

4. IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT MANY IMMEDIATE BENEFITS WILL  
RESULT FROM THIS FIRST MEETING, BUT THAT COOPERATION, TO  
BE OF MOST VALUE AND EFFECTIVENESS, WILL REQUIRE CLOSE AND  
CONTINUING CONSULTATION AND A PROPERLY PLANNED AND PHASED  
PROGRAM OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME.

5. PRIORITY AREAS FOR COOPERATION WERE IDENTIFIED DURING THE  
DISCUSSIONS. THESE AREAS ARE:

- A. STRENGTHENING OF HEALTH SERVICES,
- B. HEALTH MANPOWER AND MEDICAL EDUCATION,
- C. PRODUCTION OF PHARMACEUTICALS, BIOLOGICALS, AND  
MEDICAL PRODUCTS,
- D. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH,
- E.; BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH.

6. MEMBERS OF BOTH DELEGATIONS FORMED SUBCOMMITTEES TO  
DISCUSS IN DETAIL THESE AREAS. IN ADDITION, THE SUBCOMMITTEES  
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PROPOSED A NUMBER OF IMMEDIATE ACTIONS WHICH WERE

APPROVED BY THE JOINT WORKING GROUP. IN EACH PRIORITY AREA,  
THESE INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF EXPERT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE,  
SPECIALIZED TRAINING OF HEALTH MANPOWER, EXCHANGING OF

SCIENTISTS AND HEALTH WORKERS, AND PROVISION OF FELLOWSHIPS  
IN SELECTED AREAS.

7. THE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR EACH PRIORITY AREA ARE  
CONTAINED IN THE ATTACHED  
REPORTS FROM EACH SUBCOMMITTEE.

8. IN ALL PHASES OF HEALTH EFFORTS, THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE  
EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND THE AVAILABILITY OF

CURRENT TECHNICAL LITERATURE IS ESSENTIAL. THUS, ONE OF THE  
FIRST OUTCOMES OF THIS MEETING IS THE VIST WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF  
OFFICIALS FROM THE US NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE TO WORK  
OUT IN DETAIL METHODS TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PURPOSE.

9. ANOTHER US TEAM WILL BE SENT TO CAIRO SHORTLY TO WORK  
WITH EGYPTIAN  
COUNTERPARTS ON REVIEWING AND FURTHER  
ANALYZING THE HEALTH STATUS OF THE COUNTRY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE  
A SOUND OASIS FOR LONG-TERM PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT.

10. SCHISTOSOMI  
SIS# WAS RECOGNIZED AS A SERIOUS PROBLEM  
WHICH SHOULD RECEIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION BY BOTH COUNTRIES. IN  
ADDITION TO OTHER ACTIONS, THE UNITED STATES AND EGYPT AGREED  
TO SPONSOR WITH WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AN INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON THIS SUBJECT IN CAIRO IN OCTOBER 1975.

11. THE US DELEGATION REVIEWED THE PLANS AND  
PROSPECTS FOR THE NASSER INSTITUE WHICH IS NOW UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION. IT IS RECORDED  
AS A MOST PROMISING CENTER FOR  
MEDICAL CARE AND RESEARCH. EARLY ASSISTANCE WILL BE PROVIDED  
IN STUDYING COMPUTER APPLICATIONS FOR THE CENTER AND IN THE  
PLANNING AND DESIGN OF FACILITIES FOR RESEARCH PROGRAMS.  
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OTHER AREAS OF ASSISTANCE WILL BE UNDER CONTINUING  
CONSIDERATION.

12. THE US DELEGATION HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE SUEZ  
CANAL AREA AND BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH THE AMOUNT OF  
RECONSTRUCTION WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE ADEQUATE  
HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA. IT WILL ON ITS RETURN PROVIDE  
ADVICE TO THE US GOVERNMENT ON THIS ASPECT IN THE CONTEXT  
OF CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO THE NEED OF THE SUEZ AREA IN

ITS TOTALITY.

13. DR. EDWARDS, CHAIRMAN OF THE US DELEGATION, EXTENDED  
AN INVITATION TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH,  
MOHIE EL-DINTO HOLD

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP ON MEDICAL  
COOPERATION IN WASHINGTON DURING APRIL 1975. THE PURPOSE  
OF THIS MEETING WOULD BE TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS  
OF THE COOPERATIVE  
PROGRAM AND TO EXAMINE AND  
EVALUATE PLANS FOR FUTURE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS.

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